

TARIFF.

MEMORIAL

OF

INHABITANTS OF THE BOROUGH OF EASTON, PENN.,

In favor of the Tariff, and adverse to Nullification.

JANUARY 28, 1833.

Read, and referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

UNION AND TARIFF MEETING.

At an unusually large and general meeting of the citizens of the county of Northampton, Pennsylvania, held at the court-house, in the borough of Easton, on Tuesday evening, the 22d day of January, A. D. 1833, during the session of the court, in pursuance of a call published in the newspapers of the county, the following resolutions were adopted by the meeting *with one dissenting voice*.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the doctrine advanced by the recent Convention of South Carolina, and acted upon by the Legislature of that State, are in direct violation of the constitution of the United States, and cannot, for a moment, be assented to by those who love the Union of these United States.

Resolved, That as Union preceded independence, and that the declaration of independence was the "unanimous declaration of the United Colonies," proclaiming them as "United States," free and independent, we esteem "Union" as our country, and that no subdivision, or severance of the Union, is at all reconcileable with our existence as a country.

Resolved, That, inasmuch as sufficient power for the purposes of government was not possessed by the General Government under the old articles of confederation, the present constitution of the United States was framed principally to remedy that evil, and to designate the powers of the General Government. That it has wisely provided for conferring all the necessary powers on the General Government for its purposes, and left to the States and to the people all power not thus conferred; thus avoiding on the one hand the dangers of an extended and consolidated government, for all purposes; whilst on the other, it has provided that the States shall not control the Government of the Union in matters pertaining to that Government.

Resolved, That we esteem the conduct of the President of the United States in issuing his proclamation of the 10th of December last, as in strict accordance with his official duties, and that proclamation as containing, on the subject of the rights of the Union and the rights of the States, a sound and correct exposition of the constitution of the United States, and that he deserves therefor the thanks of all friends of the Union without regard to political distinction.

Resolved, That whilst we believe the excitement in South Carolina to be wholly unwarranted and without any sufficient cause, we deprecate civil war, if it can be avoided. That ours is a Government of the people, in which reason and argument are the strongest arms of Government. That we therefore would prefer the conviction thus produced on the minds of our misguided brethren, to a rash recourse to force; but that, if submission to the will of the majority be refused, after proper admonition, such as has been given by the President of the United States, "the Union must and shall be preserved," even if the shedding of blood be necessary therefor, and that we hold ourselves bound, as citizens of the United States, to give all the legal and constitutional aid in our power to the support of Government in such a contingency.

Resolved, That, did we suppose the alleged evils charged to the protective system really to exist, we would not consent to redress them until the weapons of opposition were laid down, and the people of South Carolina returned to their duty. We are willing to yield much in the spirit of conciliation, to concede every thing to correct reasoning, but nothing to rebellious and insurrectionary threats.

Resolved, That we consider the duty of protecting all our citizens in the legitimate pursuit of their various vocations and business against foreign competition as the paramount duty of Government, as a system universally adopted by all governments, and as peculiarly requisite in our free Government, to protect the free laborers of America from being brought to the level of the pauper and slave laborers of other countries; and that we never can nor will consent, even for the purpose of increasing the markets for southern produce, to destroy the markets for the produce of the grain growing parts of the Union.

Resolved, That the claim set up by the citizens of South Carolina to prostrate the manufactures and prosperity, and to tax the people of the middle, west, and north, in order to obtain greater prices for their cotton, is a selfish and unjust claim; and altogether at war with a character for honorable and high minded chivalry, to which the people of that State set up so exclusive a claim: for, if we understand their demand, it is, that no duties, except for mere revenue, shall be levied on any goods imported into any part of the Union, which goods could be paid for in Carolina cotton. Had they complained of the duties on goods received in exchange for their commodities and consumed by themselves, there might have been some pretext for their complaints, were it not for the fact that the manufactories of the middle and eastern States of the Union now consume more cotton than twenty years ago was raised in the United States. But their claim, in its enlarged form, requires that the Union shall be dissolved unless the *free* farmers and mechanics of the north shall consent to quit their pursuits, that the planter of the south may clear a few dollars more per annum on each of his *slaves*.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, enough was conceded to the slave holders of the south in the formation of the Constitution, when

they were permitted a representation for three-fifths of those slaves who are considered there just as much an article of property of their masters, and have as little to say in the matter of elections, as the horses and cattle of the people of the grain growing and manufacturing States; and that this concession has given to the slave holding States an aggregate of about thirty members of Congress on the anti-republican principle of the representation of property and not of men.

Resolved, That the doctrines contained in the annual messages and inaugural addresses of his excellency, the Governor of this Commonwealth, on the subjects of the Union, the supremacy of the laws, the protective system, and internal improvements, meet our decided approval, and that we view them as the doctrines to which Pennsylvania, both by principle and a regard to the welfare of her own citizens, stands pledged, and from which she cannot recede without abandoning every thing dear to her.

Resolved, That we highly approve of the resolutions, relative to the protective system, recently passed with great unanimity by both houses of the Legislature of this State; and that the Representative from this district, who introduced the counter resolutions in the House of Representatives, did not express the sentiments or wishes of the people of the county of Northampton, as no county in the State has a deeper interest in sustaining the domestic industry of our country against encroachments from abroad, than the county of Northampton.

Resolved, That our Representatives in Congress be instructed to oppose any alteration in the tariff of 1832, until it shall have been fairly tested, and until the Carolina question shall have been put to rest, inasmuch as the constant fluctuations in business, growing out of a changing and vascillating course of legislation, is more ruinous to our citizens than even a permanent hostile legislation on the subject, and any alterations now made, might be construed as extorted by the threats of disunion.

Resolved, That we cordially approve of the measures recommended by his excellency the President of the United States, in his message transmitted to Congress on the 16th instant: a document which does credit to the head and heart of its author, and which recommends a firm, decided, and pacific course, to maintain the rights of the Union, and to prevent the United States from being the aggressors in any conflict that might ensue.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers, and a copy forwarded to our Representatives and Senators in Congress, with a request that they will lay them before their respective bodies, and that a copy be forwarded to each of our senators and representatives in the State Legislature; and that the proceedings also be published in all the papers printed in the county.

DANIEL RAUB, *President*.

OWEN RICE,

JOSEPH HIRST, *Vice Presidents*.

Attest:

C. E. WEYGANDT and }
JOSEPH WEAVER, } *Secretaries*.

